

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION**

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### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**November 3, 2005**

*(Approved December 1, 2005)*

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Earl Sweeney, Michael Williams, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, John Hoggund, Peter Russell, George Sykes, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Karen Schlitzer, Brad Simpkins, Scott Weden, Joseph Butts.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1. Call to Order.** The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 3:07 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2005 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Item 2. Moment of Silence.** A moment of silence was held for Dave Estee from the Dover Fire Department who died yesterday in a motorcycle accident.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Item 1. October 6, 2005.** *Motion* was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2005 Commission meeting as printed and distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

None.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services.** Chief Prentiss gave her report for Emergency Medical Services.

**Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office.** Director Degnan gave the following report:

*This past month we saw a number arson fires. There has been an arrest on one from Antrim and this morning one in Berlin from last night. We are very concerned on the heating costs and how people will use alternative heating devices this winter. The office will be putting out press releases periodically emphasizing safe heating practices and check your smoke detectors.*

*The statewide fire mobilization plan was used for the first time during the floods. The resources of the Cheshire county area had been used extensively in the first day of the flooding and outside resources were needed to supplement them. The first deployment was from Capitol area to Stoddard on Sunday night and on Monday a Lakes Region Task Force was deployed to Alstead. The system worked well and we will work with the Federation to update and fill in some gaps.*

*There were a couple of notable issues on fire investigations this past month in Antrim and Berlin, both cumulated with an arrest. Inspections revealed serious structural issues in the Littleton Opera House, which necessitated the closure of the building. The inspection of a junkyard complaint in Lempster revealed 13 people living in the second floor of a garage. Due to the construction and life safety code deficiencies this was an imminent danger to the occupants. The occupants were removed and relocated to a safe location. These type issues have an impact on firefighter safety and training.*

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Commissioner Simpkins was absent, and no report was given.

**Item 4. Curriculum Review.** Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) Driver/Operator:
  - (1) Pumps:  
No classes scheduled at this time.
  - (2) Aerial Apparatus:  
The visiting committee has met recently and are looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program which will then be updated.
- (b) Hazardous Materials:
  - (1) Operations:  
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
  - (2) Technician:  
The trailer is proving to be a valuable asset and will be an on-going work in progress; a new larger trailer has been ordered in order to contain the ever-growing demand of Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction. A second larger trailer has been purchased to accommodate the added equipment for this program.
- (c) Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:  
A number of Part 139 FAA classes have been approved for this Fall.
- (d) NFPA 1030 Series:
  - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:  
At this point classes will be scheduled periodically as they consistently fill up. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations.
  - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator  
committee met and have discussed their next course of action, which is reviewing the New York state curriculum. Progress is continuing with this committee.
  - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:  
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.
- (e) Rescue Series:
  - (1) Structural Collapse:  
No pilots scheduled as yet.
  - (2) Confined Space:  
A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time.
  - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:  
Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending visiting committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.
- (f) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:  
Train-the-Trainers are successful thus far with over 250 instructors attending both at the Academy and in the field from Littleton to Hollis. These programs are doing well.

- (g) NPFA 1021 Fire Officer:  
A class is currently under way.
- (h) NPFA 1041 Instructor:  
The Jaffrey class (Instructor I) is completed. The new curriculum for Instructor I is almost ready. An Instructor III class is scheduled for January at the Elliot Hospital.
- (i) NPFA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:  
Doing well at this point..

Commissioner Sykes stated a pilot program for citations was running. He envisioned it to be part of the Fire Inspector II program soon. Director Degnan indicated what was covered in the class.

**Item 5. Academy Awards.** Director Mason deferred the Academy Awards report until after the Commission meeting.

## **V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

### **Item 1. Director's Report #95.**

Today marks the tenth time we have celebrated the assistance of so many that have made a difference in New Hampshire Fire Training, by holding the Fire Academy Award Ceremony.

1) **PERSONNEL**

Larry Walker, after celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Department of Safety, has tendered his resignation, effective today. He will assume a very similar position with the Air National Guard at Pease as a civilian employee. Thanks to Larry for a great job!

2) **FIRE SERVICE SUMMIT**

On October 17, 2005 the Professional Firefighters of NH and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs co-sponsored a Fire Service Summit at the Fire Academy. Topics covered were grants, interoperability, fire training, EMS, fire marshal, and legislative issues and methodology. The end of the day, Chief Rich Marinucci (2003 Academy Award recipient) from Michigan led a discussion about the Labor Management Initiative.

3) **TRADE FALL 2005**

The Region I TRADE (Training Resource And Data Exchange) sponsored by the National Fire Academy held the regional meeting on October 20 and 21 in New Haven. Upon arriving at the training facility, New Haven struck a second-alarm for a building fire...but we couldn't go! All states were represented except Massachusetts. We do what we can to assist each other and share, or trade, programs. We toured the IKEA Store in New Haven on day #2...the largest store I have ever been in!

4) **CHIEF CHRIS POPE INITIATIVE**

Chief Pope is completing his Masters degree thesis on conducting background investigations for the fire service, with a focus on hiring in a time where homeland security is so prevalent. I suggest the Commission may want to establish a sub-committee to review our rules regarding hiring practices. He has done a great job in his research.

5) AMERICORPS – EMERGENCY RESPONSE CORPS

The Americorps office in Maine initiated a grant to place a full-time employee in a volunteer fire department for up to two years. They are trying to expand this grant to include NH and VT. We have met a couple of times over the past month, and we will be mailing information and a survey to our fire departments to see if there is any interest. See attachments.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item 1. Administrative Rules, House Bill 303.**

Director Mason stated the language for HB 303 is in the packets. Also in the packets is a list of appropriate Division employees eligible for this waiver. Not all employees listed are currently in Group II. This item was tabled for now.

Chair Duquette stated to refer to page 7 of the October 2005 minutes. This was tabled until Commissioner Schlitzer can meet with the subcommittee.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1. Nominating Committee Appointment.** Chair Duquette appointed Commissioners Simpkins and Sykes as new members of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Murdough will continue as Chair, and Commissioner Hoglund as a member.

**Item 2. Hiring Procedures Committee.** Chair Duquette appointed Commissioners Burbank, Russell, and Williams to the Hiring Procedures Committee to review the Commission's hiring procedures rules. Director Mason will be the Committee's liaison to Chief Christopher Pope who is doing his Master's thesis on hiring procedures.

## **VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **Item 1.**

Commissioner Sweeney stated he is reviewing many House Bills for the Department of Safety. Over 300 Bills affect Fire and EMS.

**Item 2.**

Commissioner Sweeney asked if anyone knew how many Fire and/or EMS people were affected by the flooding in New Hampshire. Director Degnan gave one example of an EMT in Alstead who was affected.

**Item 3.**

Chair Duquette stated that recently a newspaper printed a list of names and salaries for all Dover City employees. He expressed the problems this creates when the newspaper didn't print how many hours an employee works to obtain that salary. He indicated he works two jobs with the City.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 11/03/05
2. Minutes of Meeting – 09/01/05 – Approved 10/06/05
3. Curriculum Status Report 11/03/05
4. Minutes of Meeting – 10/06/05 – Not Approved
5. Director's Report #95—November 3, 2005
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/05 to 11/02/05
7. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program—FY 2005 Award Recipients 10/28/05
8. An Act Relative to the Fire Standards and Training Commission
9. Entrance and Training Requirements Waiver Letter from Director Mason
10. Emergency Response Corps
11. Motions Passed And Committees Established – Fiscal Year 2005